



THE PENNANT HILLS DECLARER

Email: editor@pennanthillsbridge.org.au

**Pennant Hills
Bridge Club
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Editor: Elizabeth Wilson

A Message from our President



It doesn't seem long since our last "Declarer" but a great deal as happened in the intervening period. Our move from Pennant Hills to Carlingford Court was hastened by circumstances beyond our control and I'm sure that you will agree with me that the bridge environment is so much better and the fact that our numbers have increased slightly would seem to indicate that players in general like the move.

There have been teething difficulties of course – the main one being leaving the premises at night. We have been asked to leave the room via the lift to the ground floor and below. The reasons being firstly, one of building security and secondly an occupational health and safety issue which occurs after the exterior lights have been turned off at 10.00 PM (usually).

The next innovation was the introduction of BridgeMates. We had teething problems here because the manufacturer sent us outdated software and it was only after a lot of investigation and tedious reorganisation by Gary that we were able to get the BridgeMates up to scratch. Again, most of our members seem to like the approach and the fact that we get results quickly and accurately at the end of the game, as well as the detail in the results web site.

The committee is looking at two events in minute detail- the Grand National Pairs and the Grand National Open Teams. The thinking at present is that the Grand National Pairs should remain as it is at present in accordance with the spirit of the event regulations i.e. that it is a restricted event. The club will pay for four pairs to enter the elimination finals - if other pairs wish to go on to the elimination finals then they are welcome to do so at their own expense. Again in conjunction with this event we will run a side game as we did this year. The GNOT poses a major problem. When we last ran the event as a team's event it was almost impossible to get two full teams to go into the metropolitan final (a condition that must be fulfilled if we are to get gold points for our event here at Pennant Hills). For this reason over the last couple of years we have run the event as a swiss pairs event and it is a little easier to formulate a team – even if we have to go down to the 12th pair. Having said this, we are more than willing to listen to your views on these matters.

Upcoming Events

AUGUST Tuesdays

- 3** Metropolitan Teams Qualifying II
- 10** Hans Eisler Pairs
- 24** State Pairs Champ Qualifying I
- 31** State Pairs Champ Qualifying II

SEPTEMBER Tuesdays

- 14** Club Teams Championship I
- 21** Club Teams Championship II

Thursdays

- 2** Winter Teams Session I
- 9** Winter Teams Session II

OCTOBER Tuesdays

- 19** A & D Munro Pairs
- 26** Summer Teams Session I

Wednesdays

- 13** Swiss Teams Practice (4X7 board matches)
- 20** Spring Pairs Session I
- 27** Spring Pairs Session II

WANTED

Entries for the Pennant Hills Bridge Club Congress Sunday 19th October

Our Congress is one of the best & friendliest in Sydney and caters for new and experienced teams.
Make up your team now and come along for a day of fun.

Also needed are cakes, biscuits, scones to be baked by members to uphold our proud tradition of great food.



Do You Squeeze?

No I don't meant to squeeze a lemon, into traffic or your partner but do you employ the "squeeze" in your bridge play as declarer.

According to Wikipedia, a **squeeze play** is a play in which the play of a card (the *squeeze card*) forces an opponent to discard a card that gives up a trick (or more). The squeeze card is often, but not always, a winner. The discarded card may be either a winner or a card needed to protect the victim's strategic position. Squeezes most often occur late in the hand.

There are very many types of "squeezes" and many books written on the subject.

Let us see how this works:

♠ - ♥ K ♦ - ♣ -	♠ AJ ♥ K ♦ - ♣ -
♠ KQ ♥ A ♦ - ♣ -	East's Hand is imma- terial
♠ 4 ♥ 6 ♦ - ♣ A	

- * Declarer (together with dummy) has enough winners to take all the remaining tricks except for the extra trick(s) that will be gained from the squeeze. In other words, declarer has already lost all the tricks he plans to lose (the "count" is "rectified").
- * In at least two suits, declarer and dummy have "threat cards" or "menaces" that are not immediate winners, but threaten to become winners;
- * At least one of the menaces is positioned after a squeezed defender ("squeeze").
- * The declarer has sufficient "entries" (winners serving as communication between his hand and dummy) to cash the menaces if they develop into winners.
- * The squeezed defender(s) must hold only "busy" cards that are covering a menace, with no "idle" cards that can safely be discarded.

South leads the CA and West is squeezed in hearts and spades. If he discards the HA, North's HK becomes a winner. If he discards either spade, North's SJ becomes a winner.

That is a squeeze!!!!

How would you play this hand?

♠ T3 ♥ K8 ♦ AK8652 ♣ JT9	Dealer: North NS Vulnerable	♠ 652 ♥ QJ7 ♦ Q74 ♣ Q865
♠ AQJ97 ♥ 943 ♦ 93 ♣ 742		
♠ K84 ♥ AT652 ♦ JT ♣ AK3		

Would you try "a squeeze" on this hand or is there another option.

It comes from a recent Wednesday Daytime session and most pairs bid to 3NT, played by South with a S9 lead.

What is the safest line of play to ensure you make your contract?

See next issue for my suggestion of how to make it.

"Learn from the mistakes of others. You won't live long enough to make them all yourself." Alfred Sheinwold



Lady Letitia's Laments

This is a continuing story of Lady Letitia's laments. Some of the lessons she learns may apply to many of us.

Lady Letitia was playing bridge with her favourite partner, Mild Madge. They were well into the session when yet again they come across that fearsome, knowledgeable player, Pompous Percival.

He was declarer, playing South in a 4 Spade contract when, with 8 tricks won out of 10 played, he put his cards down and said "The rest are mine, making 10". and proceeded to score the board. Looking at dummy, neither Letitia or Madge was inclined to argue.

But as they looked at their next hands, Letitia said, "On that last hand, I still had a trump". "Doesn't matter", said Percival, I had the Ace and anyway, we are playing the next board now".

The moral of the story is that Lady Letitia yet again forgot one golden rule. Never do what opponents tell you but always CALL THE DIRECTOR to any perceived irregularity, whether real or imagined, at the table.

This was the actual layout, with Letitia sitting West, when Percival claimed the rest of the hand.

	♠ - ♥ AK ♦ - ♣ J	
♠ 6 ♥ 6 ♦ 7 ♣ -		♠ - ♥ 4 ♦ 84 ♣ -
	♠ A5 ♥ 3 ♦ - ♣ -	

In this case, while Letitia acquiesced to the claim initially, she was completely within her rights to raise an objection after further thought, provided (Law 69A) her side had not made a call on a subsequent board.

Had she called the Director to express her doubts, the Director would have had the last 3 cards of each player from the previous board faced so that all could see the layout above. The Director would then have required Percival to repeat any clarification statement he made at the time of his claim, especially in relation to a proposed line of play.

As there was no such statement this time, the Director would have applied Rule 70C. This says that, when a trump remains in one of the opponent's hands, the Director shall award a trick to the opponents if:

1. Declarer failed to mention the trump, and
2. Was probably unaware that a trump remained in an opponent's hand, and
3. Could lose a trick to the trump by any normal play.

The criteria for the last condition is interesting, in that for the purpose of the law "normal" includes play that would be careless or inferior for the class of player involved, but not irrational.

Such a careless line in this case would be to play a heart to dummy, allowing Letitia to then make a trump trick however Percival continued. Thus the Director would have adjusted the score to 4 Spades, one down, giving Letitia and Madge a top board.

(Law 9B1(a) says

"The director should be summoned at once when attention is drawn to an irregularity".

All players need to keep this in mind when playing bridge. Know your rights and be prepared to exercise them by calling the Director for advice. Only when he is called can a Director take action to restore equity, not only at that table, but for all other players in the session as well since their scores can be equally affected.

The other lesson we can all learn with Lady Letitia is that you should never allow yourself to be rushed when a claim is made. Think through what has been said and be satisfied that you could not make any of the tricks claimed.